Head cases
Sports-related concussions starting to receive appropriate attention

Functional connectivity unlocking new knowledge about diseases

Graduate School dean describes vision, educational philosophy
A n alumnus and highly respected faculty leader of the Medical College of Wisconsin has agreed to serve as the College’s Dean in an interim capacity. On Jan. 21, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ’90, Fel ’98, as Interim Dean and Executive Vice President. In this role, Dr. Kerschner is the Medical College’s senior officer overseeing medical education, research, patient care, and public and community health.

Dr. Kerschner was previously Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs - Children’s Specialty Group, and CEO of Children’s Specialty Group, a pediatric specialty practice that is a joint venture of the Medical College and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Kerschner also formerly served as Interim Chairman and Professor of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences.*

A board-certified otolaryngologist, Dr. Kerschner has served on the Medical College’s faculty since 1998. As a physician at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, his clinical focus is on otitis media, airway reconstruction in infants and children, and congenital head and neck masses and neoplasms. His research interests include identifying the genetic causes and potential new treatments for pediatric ear infections.

Dr. Kerschner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has served on several scientific review panels for the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and is a recipient of NIH research grants. He has published or presented more than 100 articles, book chapters, reviews and abstracts in professional journals or at scientific meetings.

Dr. Kerschner succeeds Jonathan I. Ravdin, MD. A national search is underway to identify the next Dean and Executive Vice President, whom the College hopes to have selected and in place by July 1, 2012.

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD
President and CEO

* Alumni News profiled Dr. Kerschner in 2009: mcw.edu/alumni/KerschnerProfile.

ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

I am filled with optimism for the Medical College’s future under new leadership. As Alumni Association President, I have personally observed President John Raymond’s seemingly endless energy, passion for excellence and commitment to advancing the College to the next level of academic and clinical excellence.

Now, more than ever, support of our alma mater has potential for maximum impact. Through our financial support, we give the Medical College a competitive edge in attracting the best medical school candidates. Our contributions are critical to growing scholarship and grant programs that ease the debt load for future alumni. Advancing the research base of the school provides a cutting-edge learning environment for students.

Equally important is active, physical participation by alumni in events sponsored by our Medical College and Alumni Association. Our activities and support ensure the training of quality physicians for the communities we serve.

Giving to our alma mater monetarily and in action sends an important message by demonstrating to outside contributors and the communities we serve our unwavering commitment to the Medical College’s advancement. It reflects your pride in and gratitude for the knowledge and confidence the College gave you in your entry to this honorable profession.

While present-day economics have challenged many, it is important we build upon the rooted history of alumni giving that precipitated the College’s steady rise in productivity and stature. The College and the Alumni Association are collaborating to establish an ad hoc committee that will identify opportunities to grow alumni gifts and participation. If you have an interest in this committee, I encourage you to contact the Alumni Relations office.

Your service to your alma mater clearly asserts your valuation of your medical education and the positive role of the Medical College in the community.

Steven C. Bergin, MD ’74, GME ’78
Alumni Association President
A MOMENT’S NOTICE
Providing a brief look inside this issue of Alumni News

Links in a brain
Born more than 15 years ago at the Medical College, functional connectivity MRI measures the strength of the connection between two functionally related regions in the brain while the body is at rest. Alumni Dr. Bharat Biswal, who helped develop the science, and Dr. Christopher Pawela, who furthered the work, are advancing national interest in the technique and beginning to tap the vast potential of the technology for diagnosis and evaluation of disease.

Classes represented in this story:
'96, '08

Head cases
Awareness of sports-related concussions and their potential long-term effects has increased greatly due to emphasis by the National Football League as it pertains to the health of its players and ensuing national media coverage. Athletes of any age risk concussion, and improving outcomes is as much about truthful self-reporting as it is about medical advances. Alumni who treat concussion patients note the challenges of diagnosis and treatment of an injury for which there is no definitive test.

Classes represented in this story:
'79, '01, '03

Taking education personally
Dr. Ravi Misra was appointed Dean of the Medical College’s Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences last year, but he has been actively working to advance scientific education since he first arrived at the College 17 years ago. He believes strongly in personalized educational experiences and is excited for the continued growth potential of Graduate School programs.

Upstanding citizens
For three consecutive years, alumni of Medical College of Wisconsin programs have been honored by the Wisconsin Medical Society as Physician Citizens of the Year. Dr. James Allen, Dr. Edward Cody and Dr. Peggy Stickney earned the distinction for different reasons, but each is contributing something unique toward bettering their communities.

Classes represented in this story:
'59, '75, '77, '78, '02
New CPR technique has improved survival rate

A study led by Tom P. Aufderheide, MD, GME ’86, Professor of Emergency Medicine, shows an alternative method of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) increases long-term survival of patients. Published in *Lancet*, the study determined that active compression-decompression CPR with augmentation of negative intrathoracic pressure gave patients a better chance of survival.

The survival rate in the U.S., Canada and Europe for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is just 5 percent, in part because standard CPR provides just 25 percent of healthy blood flow to the heart and brain. The new technique tested in the randomized trial uses two devices simultaneously. One is handheld and, using a small suction cup attached to the patient’s chest, allows the chest to be lifted, stimulating blood flow. The second device, an impedance threshold device, attaches to the patient’s airway and prevents air from rushing into the lungs. The vacuum created helps refill the heart after each compression.

Researchers found the heart and brain receive nearly three times more blood flow per compression-decompression cycle when compared to standard CPR. In the study, 6 percent of patients receiving standard CPR survived to hospital discharge with favorable neurologic function, compared with 9 percent in the intervention group – a 53 percent improvement in survival chance.

Research addresses asthma’s effect on sickle cell disease

The Medical College of Wisconsin received a four-year, $2.3 million grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to investigate the effects of asthma in patients with sickle cell disease. Kirkwood A. Pritchard, Jr., PhD, Professor of Pediatric Surgery, and Cheryl A. Hillery, MD, Professor of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, are principal investigators for the grant.

Asthma increases the chance of illness and death in patients with sickle cell disease. Oxidative stress, which results when an overproduction of oxygen in the body begins to damage cells, is characteristic of both conditions. Drs. Hillery and Pritchard are using a combination of standard and novel therapies in mice with a goal of reducing oxidative stress and uncovering new therapies to help patients with asthma, sickle cell disease or both.

Technology transfer alliance formed with College, UWM

The Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Technology Development and The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Research Foundation have formed an alliance to foster collaborative technology transfer efforts, including marketing and licensing of technologies. Together, the organizations aim to bring together academia and industry around the development and commercialization of new technologies and support entrepreneur-ship among faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students at UWM and the Medical College.

The alliance leverages the new regional Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin, which encompasses work at eight different Milwaukee institutions and provides infrastructure and support to innovative and collaborative research projects.

GE Healthcare, Medical College team up on imaging research

Funding from the State of Wisconsin will support collaboration between The Medical College of Wisconsin and GE Healthcare to enhance technology development, scientific discovery and translational research. Their efforts will advance ultra-high field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to study early neurological and psychiatric disorders, such as Alzheimer’s disease and bipolar disorder, and to develop new brain imaging techniques for detecting disease before clinical symptoms are evident.

The research program will be housed in the Center for Imaging Research at the Medical College. GE Healthcare will provide an investigational ultra-high field 7.0T (Tesla) MRI scanner, one of only 30 units of its kind installed in the world, and the first in Wisconsin, which will be available to Medical College researchers and collaborative members of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin.

NIMH funds research targeting HIV interventions

A five-year, $3.1 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health will allow Medical College of Wisconsin investigators to develop individualized interventions to help reduce the risk of HIV infection.

Lance S. Weinhardt, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine in the College’s Center for AIDS Intervention Research, is principal investigator for the grant.

Through the research, Dr. Weinhardt seeks to reduce the higher risk of HIV transmission faced by patients with repeat sexually transmitted infections, for whom standard prevention services available in clinics have been unsuccessful.
Genetic sequencing used to discover, diagnose a child’s unknown disease

A young boy’s lifelong health battle with a mysterious digestive disease had become increasingly dire when his physicians at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin turned to researchers in the Medical College’s Human and Molecular Genetics Center in the summer of 2010 for a final attempt at a diagnosis.

Nicholas Volker, then 5, had been in the hospital for much of the past several years, undergoing myriad tests, treatments and surgeries. All other forms of treatment had been exhausted with no lasting success. His life and quality of life were threatened until the collaborative team of 30 physicians and scientists decided to apply genetic sequencing in a new way to try to find a gene responsible for Nic’s illness.

After months of sequencing Nic’s DNA, the team identified a mutation on the gene XIAP responsible for his illness, a previously undocumented form of inflammatory bowel disease. Nic’s family and medical team decided to perform a bone marrow transplant to treat the disease. As a result, Nic is now happy and healthy, able to eat his favorite foods, play with his friends and attend school.

This unique application of personalized medicine led to the publishing of “Making a definitive diagnosis: Successful clinical application of whole exome sequencing in a child with intractable inflammatory bowel disease” in the journal Genetics in Medicine in December 2010.

The case has been reported extensively in local, national and scientific media – in print and television. A compilation of the published articles and broadcasts can be accessed at www.mcw.edu/HMGC/News/OneInABillion.htm.

Hara Levy, MD ’91, GME ’96, has received a prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director’s New Innovator Award accompanied by a five year, $2.25 million grant from the NIH Office of the Director to study genetic factors that impact severity of cystic fibrosis.

Dr. Levy is Assistant Professor of Pediatric Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine at the College and a clinician-researcher in pulmonary diseases at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

While the median age of survival is only 38 years, there is a range of disease severity among patients with cystic fibrosis, an inherited disorder caused by mutations in the CFTR gene. Using modern genetic typing and innovative genomic technologies, Dr. Levy will identify the genetic factors that play a major role in lung disease severity among patients with identical CFTR mutations. The resulting data will help characterize the genes involved in the early development of lung infections.

Cystic fibrosis researcher receives NIH Director’s New Innovator Award
Links in a brain

Functional connectivity is unlocking new knowledge about diseases

Mapping the brain’s activity while the body is at rest may provide a window into disease processes and ideas for early detection that today remain untapped. More than 15 years after functional connectivity MRI (fcMRI) first demonstrated at The Medical College of Wisconsin that the brain is never truly at rest, two alumni are carrying the torch for this re-emerging technology, including a former graduate student partially credited for its discovery.

James S. Hyde, PhD, the James S. Hyde Professor of Biophysics and Director of the College’s National Biomedical EPR Center, had just published the first ever paper on functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of the sensorimotor system in human brain when Bharat Biswal, PhD ’96, enrolled at the Medical College under his tutelage. Dr. Hyde had noticed that the noise in the fMRI data was unusually high and seemed to be coming from the brain itself. When the time came for Biswal to select a dissertation topic, Dr. Hyde suggested he study this high level of noise.

The results were spectacular. They discovered that the noise was indeed physiological and depended on neurological activity. Moreover, coherent patterns of this “physiological noise” in the brain revealed regions that had long been considered to be members of known brain systems.

Their discovery of (and ensuing publication on) fcMRI in 1995 was met with some controversy, although several other investigators soon replicated their findings. Interest increased steadily over the last decade and a half as it became apparent that a new way had been found to investigate brain function based on previously unknown brain physiology.

“Like a typical graduate student, the first concern was to get the work published and just to obtain my PhD,” Dr. Biswal said. “While I was aware that the finding was quite novel and pretty interesting, I had thought that if a few groups would find the methods useful, that would be great.”

As it turns out, the National Institutes of Health paid attention, and has supported Dr. Biswal, now Associate Professor of Radiology at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, in his research. The NIH also announced the Human Connectome Project in 2010, committing $40 million to understanding connective pathways in the human brain.

Matter that matters

Neuroscience has been dominated by studies of gray matter, the workhorse of the brain composed of neurons responsible for our thoughts and actions. Connectivity, however, shines light on white matter, the slender fibers that act as the electrical cabling to link brain regions both structurally and functionally. FcMRI involves measurements made in gray matter in the absence of any stimulus or task that, paradoxically, provide information about connectivity. It is based on physiological fluctuations that were...
found by the Medical College investigators to exist in all gray matter regions. Regions of gray matter that exhibit similar patterns of fluctuations (i.e., are correlated) are said to be connected.

“The brain is always working, and in the regions of the brain that are connected functionally, the neurons oscillate and fire together in a unique pattern,” said Christopher Pawela, PhD ’08, Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery and of Biophysics at the Medical College, who also trained under Dr. Hyde. “We can, with MRI, detect this common oscillation and thereby map connected regions in the brain that are functionally connected.”

This is accomplished by observing the changes in blood flow that occur during neuronal activity. Regions of the brain do not have to be structurally connected to have functional connectivity, and a structural connection does not necessarily signify a functional link. This is an observation noted in Dr. Biswal’s paper, “Toward discovery science of human brain function,” published March 9, 2010, in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

In December, his findings were cited as the second most significant research advance in 2010 by the National Institute of Mental Health. His research is based on the 1,000 Functional Connectomes Project he oversees, which collects existing fcMRI data from centers worldwide to create an open resource for mapping and understanding brain function.

The database currently includes information from more than 1,400 participants, and Dr. Biswal is working to organize it in a standard format to allow researchers to download the data sets as well as search based on demographic information. Already, it has led Dr. Biswal and his collaborators to demonstrate the presence of a universal functional architecture in the brain and evidence that variations in connectivity follow demographic patterns. There is optimism in the field that this growing body of information will be the basis for eventual translation to clinical applications.

“A careful characterization of a universal, or gender-, or age-specific architecture may help clinicians to use individual subjects’ specifications to rapidly identify for any differences with a composite architecture of healthy subjects in the same age range,” Dr. Biswal said. “If differences are found, a more thorough and personalized assessment could be done.”

**Mental and physical health uses**

Researchers foresee a bevy of potential uses for fcMRI. The technology might someday help provide more definitive diagnoses for mental health disorders, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. It may aid in understanding the development and progression of post-traumatic stress disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder as well as evaluate the effect of treatment.

Functional connectivity imaging could possibly be used to determine whether a person in a coma has lost all cognitive faculties or if they have awareness and lack only the ability to physically respond. The brain’s response to anesthesia is another application being explored.

While fMRI has had little clinical success outside of surgery planning for brain tumor excision, fcMRI may be better positioned to provide information that guides clinical decisions, Dr. Pawela said.

“Hopefully, functional connectivity MRI could be a tool that may be missing within the toolbox, so we can try to study some of these disorders,” he said.

At the Medical College, colleagues Shi Jiang Li, PhD, Professor of Biophysics, and Piero Antuono, MD, Professor of Neurology, are using fcMRI in an attempt to discover markers based on altered brain connections for identifying individuals at risk for developing Alzheimer’s disease before symptoms occur. Their scans of healthy subjects, those with mild cognitive disorder and those with Alzheimer’s may help determine the effectiveness of medications for halting or reversing disease progression and the best time to intervene.

**Alumni branches in family tree**

The robust research effort in fMRI and now fcMRI can be traced to the close-knit network of scientists who have trained in the Medical College’s Department of Functional connectivity MRI reveals insight into the communications processes in the brain. Dr. Biswal’s research has demonstrated the presence of a universal functional architecture, however, there is evidence of systemic differences, for example, between men and women as well as young and old.
Biophysics, particularly with Dr. Hyde as a mentor. The alumni of this program often collaborate and form bonds that help further research and careers, Dr. Pawela said.

“Former students of Dr. Hyde’s are like family, and former students from Biophysics at the Medical College have kind of a bond,” he said. “We get along, and have gone through shared experiences and we see each other regularly.”

An international meeting is how Dr. Pawela met Dr. Biswal, and their connection as alumni engendered their collaboration to advance fcMRI research. They recently co-founded the peer-reviewed journal *Brain Connectivity* and serve as co-editors-in-chief. Dr. Pawela also chaired the Second International Conference on Resting-State Functional Brain Connectivity held in September at the Medical College, which included a key presentation by Dr. Biswal on his connectome project.

Dr. Pawela entered this field as a graduate student mentored by Dr. Hyde and built upon the work of Dr. Biswal and those who followed. He demonstrated that functional connectivity existed in rats and other mammals and was thus not just a phenomenon of higher order cognition. This finding is important since drug development and other therapeutic options typically have origins in animal models.

Now on the Medical College of Wisconsin faculty, Dr. Pawela is interested in how the brain changes in response to damage of the peripheral nervous system, and fcMRI provides a unique view of brain plasticity. His research shows that in the case of nerve damage, for example, from a severed digit or injury to the brachial plexus during a child’s birth, there are connectivity changes that occur in the brain. Recovering more complete function in the body will likely require treatment that addresses not just nerve repair but also the brain’s wiring and response, he said.

“We are trying to think about the brain and body as one system, not just independent components,” Dr. Pawela said. “We are trying to create a paradigm shift in the way people think about injury. It’s not a closed system. How does the brain interpret this change and what are the ways in which we can actually help the brain heal itself, because the brain changes as well as the nerves.”

With the field advancing so quickly, it is difficult to determine when a true impact might be felt by health care providers and patients. There is a great deal of research needed, but the accessibility of the technology (fcMRI will soon be included in the software packages of most major scanner manufacturers) may expedite things.

“Is fcMRI something that is going to be deployed in the clinic tomorrow?” Dr. Pawela asked. “I don’t know, but it could be.”

Retirement for last recipient of Marquette medical diploma

Owing to his last name and the alphabetic conferral of diplomas, Herbert J. Zimmers, MD ’70, GME ’76, was the last medical student to receive his medical degree from the Marquette School of Medicine. The longtime Milwaukee physician made history again at the end of 2010, but this time of a personal nature. He retired on Dec. 31.

In 1967, Marquette University, due to financial constraints, terminated the sponsorship of its medical school, then called the Marquette University School of Medicine. The medical school subsequently became a free-standing institution named the Marquette School of Medicine. It wasn’t until 1970 that the name was officially changed to The Medical College of Wisconsin. Students graduating in 1971 were the first to receive Medical College of Wisconsin diplomas.

Post-graduation, after serving three years in the U.S. Navy in California, Dr. Zimmers returned to Milwaukee, completed a radiology residency at St. Luke’s Hospital, and then served as a staff radiologist at St. Michael Hospital for 25 years. He then joined what is now Aurora Advanced Healthcare and worked there for 10 years.

Dr. Zimmers didn’t know at the time that he was the last person to cross the stage as a Marquette School of Medicine MD graduate, but said he is honored.

“I cherish my diploma from Marquette,” he said. “I’m glad it had the Marquette name on it.”
Athletes at all levels tend to have a competitive urge to play through, or in other words disregard the symptoms of, an injury sustained in the course of a contest. Sometimes, this is simply a matter of pain tolerance, but in certain cases, like concussions, an immediate return to action can have unpredictable and potentially devastating consequences.

Michael J. Brennan, MD ‘79, was a team physician for the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League (NFL) for four years and accompanied the team to its 2009 Super Bowl appearance. He said convincing professional football players to stay out of a game after a blow to the head can be a difficult task, even if it is in their best health interests.

“A lot of times, you had to hide their helmet so they couldn’t go back out on the field,” he said.

As a hot topic nationally, sports-related concussions are always on the minds of the doctors who treat and study them. Recent policy changes in the NFL combined with heightened media coverage have shone a more intense spotlight than ever before on sports-related concussions. Although as a health issue, awareness and change have begun to trickle down to amateur and youth ranks in multiple sports, Medical College of Wisconsin alumni familiar with concussions suggest the room for improvement is greater than the distance already covered.

Because identifying concussion depends greatly on self-reporting, there has been a need to change the culture in locker rooms in which ignoring injury is analogous to toughness, and doing otherwise lets down the team.

“I think there is a better appreciation for the health consequences, long and short term,” said Dr. Brennan, an orthopaedic surgeon who remains team physician for the Arizona Diamondbacks Major League Baseball team. “It’s been a fluid change that includes having someone more specialized in brain injuries assess the players.”

In recent years, the NFL made two specific “return to play” rule changes. A player who shows any symptoms of concussion is not allowed to return to a game or a practice. That player is also required to be evaluated by an independent neurologist and can only return to activity after being cleared by both that consultant and the team medical staff. Additionally, the league announced in February that it had created a standardized protocol for sideline concussion assessment.

Unique diagnostic challenge

The National Collegiate Athletic Association mandates its member institutions have a concussion management plan in place for activities ranging from football to pole vaulting, cheerleading to equestrian. Requirements typically include recording of baseline neuropsychological assessments for each partici-
Casey G. Batten, MD ’03, developed the management plan for University of California athletics. Dr. Batten is Head Team Physician for University of California-Berkeley and coordinates the work of all clinicians in the Cal Sports Medicine Program. Policy for concussions is one thing. As Dr. Batten suggests, diagnosing concussions is a challenge of its own.

“There is no one test that can give you a yes or no answer as to whether or not an athlete sustained a concussion,” he said. “By definition, a concussion does not cause structural damage – it manifests as a disturbance in cognition. In light of this, you need to rely heavily on subjective information from the athlete.”

The need for an athlete’s honest participation to arrive at an accurate diagnosis has driven efforts by medical staffs and organizations to educate players about the warning signs of concussions and the importance of truthful reporting. Dr. Batten believes a transformation in mindset has begun in collegiate sports.

“In the past, people may have had more of the mentality that they need to play through any and all injuries,” said Dr. Batten, for whom managing sports-related concussions is a significant part of his practice. “Athletes also may have been a bit reticent to report a possible head injury for fear they would automatically be held out of competition. Through education, I think we have been able to change this culture. Athletes have begun to understand that with prompt identification and appropriate treatment, there is actually less time lost from play than if they ignored a possible head injury, in addition to the possibility of minimizing risk for long-term complications.”

Integrity vs. pride

The predisposition to downplay or dismiss injuries is equally common in youth sports. Every week, Kevin D. Walter, MD, GME ’01, sees patients who hide their concussion symptoms so they are not removed from participation or lie about their symptoms in an attempt to return prematurely. Dr. Walter is Assistant Professor of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at The Medical College of Wisconsin. He practices in the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Concussion Clinic, the only clinic in the state dedicated exclusively to pediatric and adolescent concussion care. Diagnosis of a young person’s concussion can be like detective work.

“The biggest challenges are that young athletes may not recognize the symptoms of a concussion and continue to play,” Dr. Walter said. “Many teens are not honest about symptoms as well, so it can be a difficult task to figure out whether they are telling the truth or not. Young athletes cannot be expected to understand the consequences of inappropriately treating their concussion. It is difficult for them to comprehend problems like chronic traumatic encephalopathy, chronic headaches, depression and mental health problems that can affect them in adulthood.”

Dr. Walter visited in January with a teen patient whom he had previously warned not to play soccer the next season after the boy had suffered his second concussion, which took four months to heal. The patient did not heed that advice and, following a third concussion, is experiencing consistent daily headaches. Concussions are, of course, brain injuries, so the stakes are high for everyone, but youth athletes have particular susceptibility to damaging effects and take longer to heal.

“Young brains that are still developing, e.g., brain myelination continues through the teens and perhaps early 20s, may be especially vulnerable to traumatic injury,” said Thomas A. Hammeke, PhD, Fel ’79, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and Lead Neuropsychologist for the Polytrauma Team at The Medical College of Wisconsin and Zablocki VA Medical Center. “Additionally, disability that arises in youth from traumatic injuries is lifelong for the individual and society.”

Under the magnifying glass

Dr. Hammeke has researched sports-related concussions for years, including a study of high school athletes funded by
That line of research revealed that most individuals clinically recover from sports-related concussions within a few days of injury and more than 90 percent within a week of injury. However, simply because the athlete is no longer reporting symptoms and performs normally on neurocognitive tests does not mean his brain functioning is fully normalized, he said.

That discovery may be contributing to the emphasis now being placed on understanding the consequences of multiple concussions or repeated subclinical head injuries (as can occur from the frequent impacts sustained in a typical football practice). To date, research has produced mixed findings, but at least some athletes have shown adverse outcomes, Dr. Hammeke said.

“More research on developing and understanding economical biomarkers of brain concussion and brain functioning is needed to better document the severity of brain concussion and track recovery of normal brain function or lack thereof,” he said. “This information will be especially useful for developing public health policies for determining if and when to let athletes return to play, based on scientific data.”

Athletes who participate while they have still symptoms usually have a longer duration of symptoms and are at much higher risk for repeat concussion, Dr. Walter said. Because concussion affects every person differently, however, it is impossible to predict how long a concussion will last, and there is no standard for how many concussions it takes before developing post concussion syndrome or another complication. Symptoms can be delayed, and part of concussion is memory loss, so patients often have amnesia around the time of the injury.

Time out

“The cornerstone of treatment is cognitive and physical rest,” Dr. Walter said. “That’s easy to say, but tough to do.”

For teens, treatment involves restrictions at school, sometimes even absences. It includes allowing extra time to complete assignments or tests and providing tutoring. It also means no physical activity and minimizing TV, computer, video games and texting exposure. All of these things are difficult and stressful for the student and for the school to accomplish, he said.

Through research, Dr. Walter is examining whether some degree of sub-symptom, low-intensity exercise might help an athlete recover from the sometimes debilitating long-term effects of concussion. The work is still in its earliest stages, but there is a sense of urgency in helping these patients.

Dr. Walter has anywhere from 20-25 visits each week for concussion, of which about 10-15 are new cases. He has followed patients experiencing symptoms for more than six months and others with persistent post concussion syndrome lasting even longer. Making progress against that high volume will require far-reaching education efforts.

“Continuing to improve awareness is imperative. This can only be done through education,” said Dr. Walter, a sports medicine advisory committee member for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. “Public awareness is primarily achieved through the media, so I feel it is important for physicians to be available to the media. Major changes in NFL and NCAA policy have been very helpful. Football is the most popular sport in America. When the NFL talks, the media listens. However, I still believe the most important people to educate are the coaches and the athletes.”

Dr. Brennan observed that the NFL is currently encouraging state governments to pass laws akin to the state of Washington’s “Zackery Lystedt Law,” designed to protect young athletes from returning to play too soon after suffering a concussion.

Dr. Batten agrees that despite the publicity surrounding sports-related concussions, further engagement of all stakeholders in the athletes’ health is needed to improve protocols and outcomes.

“It all comes down to quality education—education on prevention, identification, treatment and return to play,” he said. “This education needs to be aimed not just at the athletes, but also at administrators, coaches, families and other health care workers who may treat the athlete.”
The Medical College of Wisconsin has developed a reputation for producing medical scientists who are on the frontier of transforming patient care. Recently appointed Dean of the College’s Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Ravi Misra, PhD, intends to keep it that way.

“We have a tremendously talented faculty who are committed to the educational mission here despite how challenging that can sometimes be,” Dr. Misra said. “I see my job as leader of the Graduate School as empowering our faculty by helping create an environment that allows the faculty and our dedicated staff to unleash their creativity, develop new programs and more effectively train the next generation of research scientists and health care workers.”

Dr. Misra’s longstanding interest in the academic side of science is what brought him to the College 17 years ago. “That’s why I wanted to become a professor at an academic institution as opposed to working at a purely research institution,” he said. Since then he has been a dedicated advocate and accomplished leader in advancing the programs of the Graduate School. With 450 students enrolled and no undergraduate population to manage, Dr. Misra anticipates the educational experience will continue to be very personal for each graduate student.

“One of the great strengths of our Graduate School is the individual attention we give to our students’ education. No two students follow the exact same path to their educational destination,” Dr. Misra said.

Dr. Misra has developed a personal approach to teaching and mentoring students that encourages application of the facts and ideas they’ve learned in the classroom to their experiences in the scientific and medical worlds. He strives to instill in his students the value of lifelong learning and that a central goal of advanced graduate training is to take ownership of their education.

It is the unique structure at the school that allows him and other faculty members to adopt an individualized teaching paradigm. Choices and study direction are varied so students are not locked into a standard set of courses. They are mentored at multiple levels and are able to choose their path as they encounter different opportunities in the biomedical sciences.
Poised for growth

As more researchers are drawn to the College, the breadth of the College’s expertise will increase, as will the opportunities to add programs and educational options. Currently, the Graduate School offers 10 doctoral and seven master’s degree programs. Dr. Misra foresees one of his challenges will be to ensure that PhD programs can keep pace with the growth of research, and that there are adequate resources to keep the educational programs robust during this historically challenging time for academic biomedical centers.

If there is a health-related topic in which the College has invested from both a research and clinical perspective, Dr. Misra believes the students should also benefit through parallel graduate courses or programs. A broad spectrum of research areas creates a robust biomedical environment.

Already, steps are being taken to form two new dual degrees that complement the existing MD/PhD program. One will be an MD/MPH. The other will be an MD/MS in clinical and translational research, an initiative of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) of Southeast Wisconsin.

The CTSI is a collaboration of the Medical College with its affiliates Froedtert Hospital, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, the Zablocki VA Medical Center and BloodCenter of Wisconsin, plus Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) and University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) with the goal of advancing biomedical research, patient care and education. The collaboration presents opportunities for adjunct appointments at partner institutions. And, it allows the schools to capitalize on each other’s strengths: physicians, biostatistics and clinical trial experience from the Medical College and affiliates; bioengineering from Marquette, design skills from MSOE; and math, physics and other sciences from UWM.

“We want to maximize those opportunities as we develop new programs that leverage the existing strengths of the Medical College.” Dr. Misra said.

A growing national trend for master’s programs that do not require hands on lab work is to create an entirely online curriculum. Dr. Misra and the staff of the Graduate School are exploring possibilities for more distance learning opportunities that will expand the College’s outreach to professionals seeking further medical credentialing.

“Faculty and students that we’ve talked to are very eager to see these things put in place,” said Dr. Misra of the new programs and delivery methods being developed.

Science of personalized medicine

Nothing reflects the current changing medical science environment and the importance of translational medicine more than the recent treatment by College scientists and clinicians of a young boy with a previously unidentified disease caused by a rare genetic mutation. The pioneering application of genome sequencing in this child’s diagnosis heralds the impending advance of personalized medicine – a fundamental shift toward using information about a person’s genes, proteins and environment to prevent, diagnose and treat disease.

Dr. Misra sees graduate students benefiting from learning personalized medicine techniques from scientists who pioneered the methods. He advocates for adding a personalized medicine program to the school’s offerings. He also envisions the Medical College as the heart of personalized medicine training, where new methods of disease diagnosis are offered at multiple educational levels: to residents, genetic counselors, medical practitioners, medical centers and even practice groups.

While growing student opportunities and faculty expertise, Dr. Misra is also focused on growing enrollment, especially of higher-achieving traditional students and of underrepresented minorities. He would also like to see the College recruit more post-doctoral fellows. Dr. Misra recognizes post-docs as critical to the research enterprise and acknowledges that their presence and their work also makes the student experience much richer.

And while Dr. Misra works to maintain the standard of excellence achieved within the Graduate School, he notes there is room to improve communication with those students from the past and of the future. One of his goals as dean is to “speak more loudly and transparently to better inform the MCW community about the different educational opportunities and the different aspects of the educational mission of the Graduate School.”

Alumni are a key factor in moving the Graduate School ahead, Dr. Misra said. He is dedicated to improving outreach to alumni, staying connected with them and keeping them engaged in the progress of the school so that they may actively contribute to the academic life of current Graduate School students.
The height of a school’s success in training physicians might best be measured by the impact those physicians have on their communities. If so, The Medical College of Wisconsin is standing tall. For three years in a row, a doctor with a Medical College connection was named a Physician Citizen of the Year by the Wisconsin Medical Society. James C. Allen, MD ‘59, a graduate of the Marquette University School of Medicine, received the award in 2008; Edward F. Cody, MD, GME ‘78, whose residency was completed at a Medical College of Wisconsin-affiliated hospital, was honored in 2009; and recent alumna Peggy A. Stickney, MD ‘02, was named in 2010.

“I was surprised I was selected,” Dr. Stickney said, “because I’m just a frontline physician listening to what patients say and doing my best.”

Her nomination was unusual because it came from a female patient who praised Dr. Stickney for “taking time” to address her health concerns. In presenting the award, George Lange, MD ‘75, then Society President-elect, said, “Although patients often show their gratitude, it’s not every day that a patient goes the extra mile to publicly recognize her physician. Dr. Stickney has truly made a difference in the lives of her patients.”

Addressing Dr. Stickney directly, he said, “Thank you for reminding us that patients often come to us when they are most vulnerable, and the time we spend with them can have a profound impact, not only as it relates to their medical care, but also on a purely human level.”

Dr. Stickney grew up in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., and received her undergraduate degree from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, where she enjoyed hiking and snowshoeing. She credits professors at the Medical College with her winning bedside manner.

“I learned that there are four or five ways to tell a patient something,” said Dr. Stickney, who practices with Froedtert Health in Hartford, Wis., “but first you have to listen carefully to what they say. You can’t be in hurry.”

She and her husband, Charles, have three daughters, identical twin 3-year-olds, Heather and Sarah, and 6-year-old Paige.

Dr. Cody was born in Follansbee, a small town in the West Virginia panhandle, but his mother was from Wisconsin and moved the family back to Milwaukee in the late 1960s. After receiving his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he returned to Milwaukee and did his residency at the former Deaconess Hospital, then a teaching affiliate of the Medical College.

“It was a good experience, and the Medical College doctors who watched over me knew their stuff,” Dr. Cody said. Practice opportunities were better in small towns, so he took a job as a family doctor with Medical Associates, a group of physicians in Beaver Dam, Wis., and stayed until he retired in 2009.

“It’s just a really nice community.”

Dr. Cody performed volunteer services throughout his career, including serving as medical director for the local school system and a nursing home.

“When you’re in a small town, all the doctors get together and discuss who will take which voluntary position,” he said. “It’s one of the great things about living here.”

Since 1999, he has also led a two-hour-per-week study group at Fox Lake Correctional Institution. “I was ordained as a deacon in the Catholic Church, and
“this is part of my faith-based service,” he said. “The inmates very much enjoy and benefit from contact with the outside world.”

For the past several years, Dr. Cody has also traveled to Bay St. Louis, Miss., which is about 60 miles northeast of New Orleans.

“This area was hit hard by Hurricane Katrina so I go down there with a group of people from the archdiocese in Milwaukee and help rebuild homes,” he said.

He and his wife, Coletta, have two sons, Mark, an industrial engineer and Matt, a CPA, and one daughter, Michelle, who is an accountant for the state.

When Dr. Allen was attending Marquette University School of Medicine in the late 1950s, the Milwaukee Braves won the pennant. “There was a huge celebration on Wisconsin Avenue,” he recalled.

Dr. Allen pursued his medical degree supported by the GI Bill after serving in the U.S. Army. He had arrived in Korea just after the armistice was signed in 1953, he said.

He never forgot his military service or his boyhood in Brodhead, Wis.

“Money never meant a thing to me,” he said emphatically. “I just wanted to help my fellow citizens and veterans—they needed a fair shake, and that’s what I dedicated my life to.”

He became an ophthalmologist because he wore glasses and was “curious about what that eye doctor was doing.” Dr. Allen’s residency was at the University of Wisconsin Hospital, and he liked Madison.

“It worked out that I could spend half my time at the VA hospital and the other half at the University hospital,” he said. “I also discovered that I enjoyed teaching!”

From 1967 until his retirement in 2000, he was a professor of ophthalmology and coordinator of Ophthalmology Inpatient Care for UW-Madison. Just before he retired, he saw a patient who had lost an eye in the D-Day Invasion.

“As this patient aged, he lost vision in his remaining eye due to macular degeneration,” Dr. Allen said. “But, the VA wouldn’t give him the benefits a vet who is blind due to combat receives, and I didn’t think that was right.”

When he retired after nearly four decades of practice, he decided to look into the matter. Soon he found himself in the Milwaukee Public Library thumbing through volumes of the U.S. Code, which he said takes up “about 10 feet of shelf space.” Poring over the books, he came upon a section that pertained to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

“That’s where I found the paragraphs that applied to the loss of eyes and arms and legs,” he said. “The difference was just a few words, but it meant that arms and legs were considered ‘paired organs’—lose one and it was like losing both—whereas eyes were not.”

Dr. Allen made changing the code his goal and went to talk with Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin’s 2nd Congressional District, beginning a journey through the U.S. legislative system that would continue for the next seven years and put him in contact with many elected officials. He finally succeeded toward the end of 2007 when the change known as the Dr. James C. Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act (H.R. 797) was signed into law.

In a press release, Rep. Baldwin said, “I’m very grateful to Dr. Allen for bringing this problem to my attention and for his service to his country and our veterans. The Dr. Allen bill reminds all of us of the difference one person can make in our democracy.”

When Clarence P. Chou, MD ’77, GME ’83, former President of the Wisconsin Medical Society, presented the 2008 Physician Citizen of the Year award, he said, “Dr. Allen may be a formally retired ophthalmologist, but he’s never stopped working on behalf of patients.”

Dr. Allen lives in Madison with his wife, Kathryn. They have two adult sons, David an orthodontist, and John, who works for an advertising agency.
Recent graduate creates fund for diversity-based community projects

As a student, Clarence Monteclaro, MD '10, worked with the Milwaukee Hmong community and realized that effectiveness in community engagement projects requires funding. Consequently, the recent graduate took $2,000, primarily from his own savings, and started the Monteclaro Cultural & Community Medicine Annual Grant Fund at The Medical College of Wisconsin.

Grants from the fund are available for any ethnic or diversity-based student group. The intention of the fund is to encourage medical students to be community medical leaders by promoting local cultural identity and by addressing local health interests among varied ethnic groups in Milwaukee.

By establishing the fund, it is Dr. Monteclaro’s hope to not only foster individual growth, but to collaborate with other student and local community leaders. In 2010, the fund already disbursed two awards – one to be used as cash prizes for a Hmong cultural dance competition held during the Silver City’s Asian Fest in Milwaukee, the other on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association to fund health prevention efforts and screenings during Asian Fest 2010 and other community-based venues between August 2010 and August 2011.

Donations to the grant fund will be accepted at the end of each academic school year.
Physician-scientist-entrepreneur and Union Grove native James P. Thomas, MD '91, PhD '89, GME '95, has returned to Wisconsin with an unwavering commitment to earning The Medical College of Wisconsin a designation as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“This is a very new, reinvigorated effort with a lot of resources of the medical campus being brought to bear,” Dr. Thomas said. “We have a very aggressive agenda for developing some key areas within the Cancer Center, both in basic science departments and clinical departments.”

Lured back by Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center Director Ming You, MD, PhD, and what Dr. Thomas describes as world-class research being performed by strong, young faculty, Dr. Thomas is now Professor of Medicine (Hematology/Oncology). His clinical research acumen will be instrumental in steering new cancer treatments from College labs through the trial process and into clinics.

“Dr. Thomas will lead the effort to develop MCW Cancer Center’s Clinical Trials Office, which provides much needed support to all investigators in the Cancer Center for clinical research activities,” said Dr. You, the Joseph F. Heil, Jr. Professor in Molecular Oncogenesis, Senior Associate Dean for Cancer Research, Education and Clinical Care, and Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Dr. Thomas’ own research is on the pursuit of antioxidants to protect against reactive oxygen species (ROS) cell damage that leads to cancer and other diseases. His work has led to two patents and two NCI Small Business Innovation Research awards presented to the company he founded in 2006, Perscitus Biosciences.

Perscitus is developing and commercializing Dr. Thomas’ two patented technologies that represent breakthroughs in the applied use of these ROS-based chemical reactions. One is a compound that is a precursor to glutathione and selectively protects normal cells from the toxic effects of chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The second patented technology is for a testing kit that determines the function of unknown proteins by identifying protein-binding partners. The redox-based protein assay will be used in drug development.

Armed with a PhD in biochemistry, an MD, internal medicine training, and experience as a research fellow in biophysics and as a medical oncologist, Dr. Thomas left the state in 2005. He took a position as Medical Director of the Clinical Trials Office of the Ohio State Comprehensive Cancer Center.

When he arrived at Ohio State, it was undergoing a rapid growth phase similar to what the Medical College is now experiencing. His history as a cancer researcher and translational researcher, understanding the correlative science of clinical trials, enabled him to help others develop their concepts.

“We communicated to investigators and staff the importance of participation in clinical trials,” Dr. Thomas said, “and we improved the infrastructure such that we could offer more trials and the trials would open quicker.”

The result: the number of patients enrolled in trials nearly doubled.

Dr. Thomas is also Chairman of the American Association of Cancer Institutes Clinical Research Initiative. The initiative is a network of cancer center leaders that advocate for rapid development and implementation of clinical trials by sharing information on proven models that lead to new cancer therapies.

“This group has really given me a lot of insight into the way that clinical cancer research is done across the country,” Dr. Thomas said. “It also gives MCW a place at the table nationally to talk about what’s being done here.”

In his clinical practice, Dr. Thomas treats patients with gastrointestinal cancers.

“When I was doing my training, [gastrointestinal] represented one of a number of cancers that had the most room for improvement,” he said. “They needed new ideas and new treatments, and I thought that during my lifetime we could make contributions in this area.”
ALUMNI NOTES

ALUMNI NEWS wants to publish news of your professional and personal accomplishments and activities. Please send updates (including graduation year and current position) to: Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Alumni Relations 8701 Watertown Plank Road Milwaukee, WI 53226, fax at (414) 955-6699 or e-mail alumni@mcw.edu

1960s

Peter M. Sanfelippo, MD '65, is Medical Director of the Occupational Medicine Center in Tyler, Texas. He has earned board certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in the specialties of preventive medicine and occupational medicine. He is also board-certified in general surgery, thoracic and cardiac surgery and general vascular surgery.

1970s

James G. Schwade, MD '73, was reappointed to the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council for a second term. Dr. Schwade is the Executive Director of the CyberKnife Center of Miami and the CyberKnife Center of Palm Beach. An internationally recognized radiation oncologist, he is Clinical Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, where he was the first Chairman of Radiation Oncology. He also holds appointments as Clinical Professor in the Department of Radiology and Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Florida International University.

Rodney W. Malinowski, MD '75, has been elected President of the Wisconsin Surgical Society – Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Surgeons for the 2010-2011 term. He currently practices general and hand surgery at the Mile Bluff Medical Center in Mauston, Wis. He and his wife, Mary, recently welcomed their first grandchild, Greta Claire, who was born in Columbus, Ohio, to their daughter, Laurel Slaughter, MD, GME '06, and son-in-law.

Michael A. Love, MD, GME '76, Fel '78, of Cardiovascular Care Consultants has joined the University of Tennessee-Erlanger cardiology physician practice. Dr. Love is board-certified in cardiovascular diseases and internal medicine and will be practicing at the Erlanger Baroness Campus in Chattanooga, Tenn.

1980s

Mary Horowitz, MD '80, GME '89, MS '91, was the 2010 recipient of the American Society of Hematology Mentor Award. The award recognizes scientists who have dedicated their life to the process of guiding, supporting and promoting the training and career development of junior colleagues. Dr. Horowitz studies the effectiveness of transplantation as a treatment for life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and other cancers. She is the Robert A. Uihlein Jr. Professor of Hematologic Research and scientific director of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research at The Medical College of Wisconsin.

Thomas Zoch, MD '83, was recently named Associate Medical Director of Network Health Plan in Menasha, Wis. He served as Medical Director of Miller Electric from 2005-2010, as team physician for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers minor league baseball team from 1995-2005, and as Medical Director of Theda Clark Medical Center emergency department in Neenah, Wis., from 1997-2003. He has lived in the Fox Cities area of Wisconsin for more than 15 years.

Philip S. Clifford, PhD '85, co-wrote an article that was selected by Science Careers as one of the top career-related articles of 2010. The article, titled “Perspective: Top 10 Tips for Mentors,” was co-written with Joan Lakoski, PhD, of University of Pittsburgh, and originally published on Oct. 8, 2010, on the Clinical and Translational Science Network. Dr. Clifford is Professor of Anesthesiology and Physiology and Associate Dean of Postdoctoral Education at The Medical College of Wisconsin. The Science Careers blog is published by the journal Science.

Theodore G. MacKinney, MD ’85, MPH, was awarded the Wisconsin chapter of the American College of Physician’s 2010 Addis Costello prize. The award honors the memory of Dr. Addis Costello, a Milwaukee physician leader who worked to address socioeconomic factors affecting the practice of internal medicine. Dr. MacKinney has traveled to Nepal to develop health services in resource-poor settings as founder and director of Living River Health Services. His work in Nepal includes starting a teaching and mission hospital, directing two hospitals, managing hospital staff and establishing the first diabetes specialty clinic in the country. Dr. MacKinney is Associate Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine) at The Medical College of Wisconsin. He directs the continuity clinic experience for the Internal Medicine Residency Program and practices primary care at the General Internal Medicine Clinic at Froedtert Hospital.

Gail Jacobson McNutt, MD ’85, Fel ’91, accepted an Associate Chief of Staff position at the William S. Middleton Memorial VA Hospital in Madison, Wis. She is relocating from the VA Appleton Clinic in Appleton, Wis., where she has lived for the past 10 years. She is an internist specializing in allergy and immunology.

Holly Maes, MD ’85, GME ’88, recently relocated to Danville, Ill. with her husband, Rich, to practice at Danville Pediatric Center in general and behavioral pediatrics. She has four children who live across the Midwest.

Tom P. Aufderheide, MD, GME ’86, received the 2010 DeVibbiss Literary Award for his paper titled, “Implementing the 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines, Including Use of the Impedance Threshold Device, Improves Hospital Discharge Rate After...
In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest.” The literary award recognized the best paper to address new technology or a new application of current technology published in the science journal Respiratory Care. The award was presented by the American Respiratory Care Foundation at the American Association for Respiratory Care’s 56th International Respiratory Congress in December 2010.

Erik Stene, MD, GME '86, is in private practice with Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul, Minn., and Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He is also Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Anesthesiology. He recently resigned as the Medical Director of Anesthesia at Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and the Chief of Pediatric Anesthesia after 16 years in these roles. In his spare time, Dr. Stene enjoys bird watching and time with family. He and his wife, Lisa, have three adult daughters.

Varonica Barr Dixon, MD '87, is currently the Chair of a nine-person pediatric department in an independent practice organization in southern California consisting of more than 120 physicians. She is currently overseeing the initiation of an electronic medical records system.

1990s

Neil Farber, MD '90, PhD '88, GME '93, recently published a book titled The Blame Game: The Complete Guide to Blaming: How to Play and How to Quit, with Bascom Hill Publishing. The book instructs readers how to improve their health, well-being, relationships and careers by accepting responsibility and avoiding the placement of blame. Dr. Farber is Associate Professor of Pediatrics, of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and of Anesthesiology at The Medical College of Wisconsin. He practices pediatric anesthesiology at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Farber writes the “blaming” section for the Psychology Today Web site and is involved in international medical missions for children, to which a portion of all book profits are donated.

Jon Lehrmann, MD '90, GME '94, was appointed Interim Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at The Medical College of Wisconsin in September 2010. It is expected to be a two-year appointment. Dr. Lehrmann joined the Medical College faculty in 1999 and is Associate Professor of Psychiatry. His leadership and program development experience includes: Acute Care Program Manager (Managed Mental Health Inpatient Unit and Mental Health Consultation-Liaison Service at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center) Mental Health Division from 1996-2005; Division Manager, Mental Health Division at the VA Medical Center since January 2009; Director of Junior Clerkship from 1995-1998; Associate Director of Residency from 1998-2005; Director of Residency Training 2005-2009 in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. His research interests are in the pharmacologic treatment of bipolar disorders, schizophrenia and psychiatric education.

Elizabeth Ashworth, MD, Fel '91, was hired at Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kan., as a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon in January 2011. She will perform many types of heart procedures, including bypass, valve and lung surgeries. Dr. Ashworth comes to Hays from Indianapolis but practiced as a heart surgeon in Wichita, Kan., in the early 1990s.

Bhavna Sheth, MD '92, GME '96, was elected a member-elect of the American Board of Ophthalmology’s Board of Directors. She will serve a four-year term on the board beginning in 2012. She has served the board previously as an examiner for the oral board exam, a mentor for new oral board examiners and an item writer for the maintenance of certification exam. Dr. Sheth is Professor of Ophthalmology at The Medical College of Wisconsin.

Mahadevappa Mahesh, PhD, MS '94, was recently interviewed about airport scanners by various newspapers and TV stations, including PBS and Voice of America. His book, MDCT Physics: The Basics – Technology, Image Quality and Radiation Dose, which was published in 2009, is now translated into Japanese and being published by Medical Sciences International, LTD, in Tokyo.

Larry Bucshon, MD, Fel '95 (R-IN), took office in January in the U.S. House of Representatives – 112th Congress. He spent his career specializing in cardiothoracic surgery and has performed hundreds of heart surgeries. He has been President of Ohio Valley HeartCare in Evansville, Ind., and serves as Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Medical Director of the open heart recovery intensive care unit at St. Mary’s Hospital, also in Evansville.

Manish J. Gharia, MD '96, GME '01, currently practices Mohs micrographic surgery with Madison Medical Affiliates in Milwaukee. He is Associate Clinical Professor of Dermatology at The Medical College of Wisconsin and also the Director of Dermatologic Surgery at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. He is the outgoing President of the Wisconsin Dermatological Society, dermatology representative to the Wisconsin Medical Society.

Judy E. Kim, MD, GME '96, received the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). The award is given to individuals who make exceptional contributions to the academy as an instructor, presenter, by serving on committees, and by assisting in other academy efforts. She was also chosen to give the inaugural Dong Shin Memorial Lecture at the 2010 Korean-American Ophthalmological Society meeting, held in conjunction with the AAO’s annual meeting. Dr. Kim is Professor of Ophthalmology at The Medical College of Wisconsin.

2000s

Darcy Lesniak (Fechner), MD '00, GME '03, married Dan Lesniak on Aug. 13, 2010. She continues to practice pediatrics in Germantown, Wis.

Dean Olson, MD '00, is attending Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where he is completing a NASA
Aerospace Medicine residency and masters program.

Sarah C. Campbell, MD ’01, GME ’04, has been practicing with Affinity Health System in Appleton, Wis., as a pediatrician since October 2008, following fulfillment of her four-year National Health Service Corps commitment. She is actively involved with the Wisconsin chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She and her husband, Ren, welcomed their daughter, Stella, in January 2010. They also have two other children, Mason and Sadie.

Nicholas Laffely, MD ’01, an interventional cardiologist, has been appointed to the medical staff of Central Maine Medical Center, in Lewiston, Maine, on the Heart and Vascular Institute team. He recently served as a cardiologist and research fellow at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., and completed a residency in internal medicine at Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He did metabolism and lipid research as a fellow at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Laffely is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Samantha Hill, MD ’03, Fel ’10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Dermatology at The Medical College of Wisconsin and to the medical staff of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Hill came to The Medical College as a pediatric dermatology fellow in 2009 after completing residencies at St. Louis University Hospital and Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She specializes in the treatment of hyperhidrosis.

Mark Kromer, MD ’03, recently completed a six-month tour of duty at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan with the U.S. Air Force. In addition to his treatment of soldiers’ war-related injuries, he was also involved with outpatient surgery for people in the Afghan community. In November, he returned to his home base in Landstuhl, Germany. Dr. Kromer completed his residency at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., and the University of California Davis.

James LaBelle, MD ’03, PhD ’01, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist is currently an instructor in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and an attending physician at Children’s Hospital Boston and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass.

Melissa M. Agoudemos, MD ’04, PhD ’02, has joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, specializing in pediatric cardiology. She was recruited as part of St. John’s Children’s Hospital, a joint endeavor of SIU and St. John’s Hospital in Springfield. In 2010, Dr. Agoudemos finished a three-year fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital in Iowa City, where she also completed her pediatric residency in 2007.

M. Todd Burtis, MD ’04, recently became a staff radiologist at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. He completed his residency at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, in diagnostic radiology in 2010. Marty Muntz, MD, GME ’04, was named the 2010 Young Internist of the Year by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to patient care and medical education. It was presented at Wisconsin’s ACP annual meeting in September 2010. He has also received the Medical College Department of Medicine’s Top Ten Teaching Award and the Edward J. Lennon Endowed Clinical Teacher Award. Dr. Muntz is Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine) at The Medical College of Wisconsin. His educational work has focused on ambulatory medicine and fourth-year students.

Ami Talati, MD ’04, is currently practicing allergy and immunology in a private practice with Oak Brook Allergists in Oak Brook, Ill.

Richard Pretorius, MD, MPH ’05, has been appointed Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio. He previously served as Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Pretorius earned the Innovation Award in Medical Education from the Association of American Medical Colleges in 2009. He publishes and presents extensively in the areas of medical education, rural medicine and family medicine.

Kelly (Chmielewski) Milewski, MD ’06, and Christopher Milewski welcomed their first child, Anthony Christopher, on Dec. 16, 2010. He weighed 7 pounds, 5.5 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Robert Jeremy Nichols, PhD ’06, recently joined The Parkinson’s Institute and Clinical Center in Sunnyvale, Calif. Dr. Nichols previously completed post-doctoral training at the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit in Dundee, Scotland, which is known for its work on signal transduction by kinases. Dr. Nichols’ research focuses on Leucine Rich Repeat Kinase 2 (LRRK2), in which inherited mutations have been shown to cause Parkinson’s disease. He is working to understand the molecular role of LRRK2 to develop therapies that prevent disease onset.

Laurel Slaughter, MD, GME ’06, and her husband, Jon Slaughter, MD, announce the recent birth of their daughter, Greta Claire. The Drs. Slaughter are both pediatric specialists on The Ohio State University medical faculty.

Herman Dave, MD ’07, will begin a musculoskeletal radiology fellowship in 2012 after completing his radiology residency at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Milwaukee.

Abigail Deyo, MD ’07, GME ’10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine) at The Medical College of Wisconsin and to the medical staff of Froedtert Hospital.

Katarzyna (Kasia) Broniowska, PhD ’08, received the Edward J. Lennon, MD Award for Outstanding Woman Postdoctoral Researcher at the fourth annual Women Pioneers in Research awards held in October 2010. The award is part of The Medical College of Wisconsin’s annual Women in Science series. Dr. Broniowska is a postdoctoral fellow in the Medical College’s Department of Biophysics.
Melissa DuBois, MD, GME '09, was appointed Assistant Professor of Radiology at The Medical College of Wisconsin and to the medical staff of Froedtert Hospital. She completed a fellowship in musculoskeletal radiology and has been an instructor at The Medical College of Wisconsin since 2009.

Gregory Thom, MD '09, and Lisa (Rhyner) Thom, MD '09, announce the birth of their daughter, Amelia Ruth, on Dec. 7, 2010. Gregory is a resident in general surgery and Lisa is a resident in psychiatry, both at the University of California Irvine.

Amy Guise, MD, GME '10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Urology at The Medical College of Wisconsin and to the medical staff of Froedtert Hospital. Dr. Guise specializes in treatment of kidney stones.

Catharine D. Malmsten, MD, Fel '10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular) at The Medical College of Wisconsin and to the medical staff at Froedtert Hospital. During her cardiology fellowship at the Medical College, she served as chair of the Underrepresented in Medicine Housestaff Committee. Her clinical interests include women and cardiovascular disease, preventive cardiology, oncocardiology, coronary artery disease and heart failure.

Oleg (Alec) Vishnevsky, MD '10, is currently training in the emergency medicine/internal medicine residency program at Hennepin County Medical Center in Golden Valley, Minn.

**ALUMNI NEWS accepts and publishes obituaries of Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette School of Medicine, and Marquette University School of Medicine alumni.**

**James H. Habermann, MD ’52, of Joplin, Mo., died Oct. 9, 2010, of prostate cancer. He was 84 years old. After high school, he served nearly four years in the U.S. Army, and was discharged with the rank of 1st Lieutenant, Airborne Infantry. Soon after completing his internship in Milwaukee, he moved back to his hometown of Mt. Calvary, Wis., and joined in a family practice with his family doctor. He later served as a pathologist on the staff at Mercy Hospital in Fort Dodge, Colo., after moving there in 1960 for a residency program. He went on to become the first President of the Board of Directors for the newly formed Trinity Regional Hospital there. He also served at Freeman Hospital and St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Mo. Dr. Habermann was an Emeritus Fellow in both the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. He retired in 1991 because of a cancer diagnosis. He is survived by his wife, Helen, five children and 10 grandchildren.**

Robert J. McNamara, MD ’54, of Oakland, Calif., died May 15, 2010. He was 81 years old. Dr. McNamara served in the U.S. Air Force and also practiced as a dermatologist in the Oakland, Calif. area for many years. He served as President of the Pacific Dermatologic Association and was a former Professor of Medicine at Stanford University.

Nathan Hilrich, MD, GME ’55, of Thiensville, Wis., died Dec. 3, 2010. He was 85 years old. Dr. Hilrich served in the military as a medic during World War II. He worked as an OB/GYN for more than 40 years in the Milwaukee area. He was part of the University of Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association and served as its secretary. Dr. Hilrich traveled throughout the country, racing his car, and was a member of the Porsche Club of America. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, two children and two grandchildren.

Gennaro Licosati, MD ’56, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Oct. 6, 2010. He was 79 years old. He practiced medicine in Phoenix for 50 years, where he was a Chief of Staff of Doctor’s Hospital and the Medical Director and Chief of Staff for the Sacred Heart Home for the Aged. He was a past president of the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians of Maricopa County and a member of both the state and county medical societies. Dr. Licosati is survived by his wife, Margaret, six children and 16 grandchildren.

Albert A. Nemcek Sr., MD ’56, MS ’54, of Brookfield, Wis., died Oct. 26, 2010. A radiologist, Dr. Nemcek was 83 years old.

Frederic G. Haessly, MD ’57, died Nov. 29, 2010. He was 77 years old. Dr. Haessly served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He practiced medicine in Juneau, Wis., for about 30 years and was the Medical Director of the Dodge County Nursing Home and Mental Health Center. After retirement in 1991, Dr. Haessly moved to Deming, N.M. He enjoyed exploring the desert and discovered the most intact Columbian mammoth tusks ever found in New Mexico. In 2010, he moved back to Wauwatosa, Wis. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, two children and four grandchildren.

Patricia Hermann, MD ’58, MPH, of Hendersonville, N.C., died Dec. 18, 2010. She was 77 years old. She initiated an active surveillance program for AIDS cases in Columbia, S.C., in 1987 that improved the amount of AIDS cases reported from 40 to 90 percent in only three years. In 1990, she worked part-time administering an epidemiology study designed by the Center for Disease Control to gather information on people with HIV/AIDS to design better prevention programs. She enjoyed painting and genealogy. After retirement, she and her husband, Elmer, traveled extensively in Europe and Africa. She is survived by Elmer.

Bruce R. Bogost, MD ’59, GME ’71, died Oct. 31, 2010, at his home in Highland, Calif. He was 78 years old. Dr. Bogost practiced psychiatry for nearly 50 years. He is survived by five children and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son.

**mcw.edu EXTRA**

Thanks to all who completed the 2010 alumni readership survey. A summary of the results is available at mcw.edu/alumnisurveyresults.
John F. Wegryn, MD '59, of Akron, Ohio, died June 1, 2010. He was 76 years old. Dr. Wegryn served at Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy, working as an Assistant Professor of Urology and Chief of Urology Staff at Summa St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio, for 20 years, where he was also the Vice President of the Medical Staff. He received Summa’s Physician Recognition Award in 1999. Dr. Wegryn was also a Diplomat of the American Board of Urology. He enjoyed fishing, golfing and dinner with friends. He is survived by his wife, Terry, three children and eight grandchildren.

Dean M. Harms, MD, GME '75, of Ames, Iowa, died Aug. 15, 2010. He was 67 years old. He practiced general ophthalmology in Ames for 35 years. Dr. Harms was a member and served on the Board of Councilors of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and held leadership positions in the Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology, the Story County Medical Society, and the Ames Morning Rotary Club. He was also a member of Collegiate United Methodist Church in Ames. Dr. Harms volunteered at the Central Christian Ophthalmology Clinic in Honduras, where he did eye surgery and helped establish the L.D. Perry Memorial Scholarship Fund. He enjoyed gardening, traveling and fishing. He is survived by his wife, Mary, three children and three grandchildren.

Douglas Loberg, MD '75, of Peoria, Ill., died Dec. 8, 2010, at his home. He was 61 years old. Dr. Loberg joined the Associated Anesthesiologists, SC in Peoria, Ill., in 1986, and served on the executive committee, including as President from 1994-1995. He was on the staffs of St. Francis Medical Center, Proctor Hospital (where he was the Chairman of the Department of Anesthesia), St. James Hospital and the Center for Health, all in Peoria, Ill. Dr. Loberg was a member of the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Medical Association and the Illinois Medical Association. He was a Fellow of the American College of Anesthesiology and the American Board of Anesthesiology. He was an Eagle Scout and served as Scout Master for many years. He was honored as an adult for his service to the Boy Scouts with prestigious awards. Since 1992, he served as the diocesan chairman of the Catholic Committee on Scouting. He is survived by his wife, Vicky, and two children.

Robert C. Maglio, MD '75, GME '87, of Milwaukee, died Dec. 9, 2010. He was 61 years old. During his career, Dr. Maglio made significant contributions in the research areas of smoking cessation and upper respiratory tract infections. Dr. Maglio practiced for many years with the Henry Ford Health System at the Medical College of Ohio and specialized in emergency medicine and pulmonary disease. He also practiced in the Emergency Department at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee. In 2005, he became an Assistant Professor of General Internal Medicine at The Medical College of Wisconsin, a position he held until his death. He was a member of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Sleep Disorders Association, and was a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Maglio had a passion for sailing and was a member of the South Shore Yacht Club. He was also an avid reader and loved history, swimming, cycling and the outdoors. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and two children.

Mark A. Hansen, MD ’79, of Madison, Wis., died Dec. 18, 2010. He was 57 years old. He practiced medicine at the Dean Clinic-East in Madison. He enjoyed traveling and photography, and was a fitness enthusiast. He volunteered his medical services to local high school athletic programs and to the Special Olympics.

Dennis A. Sobczak, MD ’86, of Elm Grove, Wis., died Dec. 10, 2010. He was 49 years old. He practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology for more than 20 years. He is survived by his life partner, Terre M. Borkovec, MD ’84, and three children.

Kayoko Ishizuka, PhD ’10, of Tampa, Fla., died Sept. 25, 2010, when she was struck in a hit-and-run by a motor vehicle while biking home from the molecular science laboratory in which she worked. Dr. Ishizuka had recently moved to Tampa for an interim postdoctoral fellowship at the University of South Florida, studying the genetic basis of cancer. She was an avid cyclist, riding at all hours in all kinds of weather. Dr. Ishizuka was a native of Japan, where her family resides.

Joseph A. Beres, MD, died Nov. 18, 2010. He was 82 years old. Dr. Beres joined the Marquette University School of Medicine faculty in 1964 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of Ambulatory Services at Milwaukee County General Hospital. He became Associate Professor of Medicine (Nephrology) in 1968 and continued his work on The Medical College of Wisconsin faculty for several decades, also serving as Assistant Director of Medical Services at the Milwaukee County Medical Complex from 1969-1994. Dr. Beres dedicated his entire professional career to the development of the Medical College’s Division of Nephrology and to helping patients with kidney failure requiring dialysis. He learned to do percutaneous needle renal biopsies when they were first described, eventually conducting more than 3,000 of them, helping to set the standard for the procedure in Southeastern Wisconsin. He was an instrumental figure in establishing a chronic dialysis and kidney transplant program at County, which later was transferred to Froedtert Hospital. In addition, he served nearly 40 years with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army, beginning with the Korean Conflict and ending with Operation Desert Storm. He is survived by his wife, Vivian, three sons and two grandsons.

Joanna Spiro, EdD, died Dec. 24, 2010, of breast cancer. She was 75 years old. Dr. Spiro was a former faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at The Medical College of Wisconsin. She began her career at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1976 as an Assistant Professor, and retired in 1999 as an Associate Professor. She continued as a volunteer clinical faculty member at the Medical College until 2007. She was a highly regarded teacher and developed a nationally recognized peer counseling program for medical students. She is survived by her three children and grandchildren.
ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni reception
Oshkosh area
April 6, 2011

Alumni dinners
Minneapolis/St. Paul area
May 3, 2011
LaCrosse area
May 4, 2011

Alumni luncheon
Rochester, Minn.
May 4, 2011

Specialty receptions
American College of Physicians
San Diego, Calif.
April 7, 2011

Alumni Association
Board meetings
April 29, 2011

Symposium for Senior Physicians
May 19, 2011

Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic
Aug. 15, 2011

For more information about alumni events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations by:
Phone: (414) 955-4781
E-mail: alumni@mcw.edu
Internet: www.mcw.edu/alumni

2011 ALUMNI WEEKEND

April 29-30, 2011

Friday
2011 Alumni Banquet at the Pfister Hotel, including recognition of reunion class gifts and presentation of Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Honorary Alumnus Award, and Humanitarian Award.


Saturday
Continental Breakfast
Spouses’ Tour – Milwaukee Art Museum
Scientific Program
President’s Luncheon – with President and CEO John R. Raymond, Sr., MD
Guided Tours – of the Medical College
Estate Planning Seminar
Special Class Dinners and Events – taking place in the evening

CLASS OF 1961
50-YEAR REUNION

May 20-21, 2011

Friday
Commencement ceremony and recognition of the 50-year graduates – Milwaukee Theatre
Buffet Dinner – Pfister Hotel

Saturday
Class Brunch – Pfister Hotel
President’s Dinner – Medical College of Wisconsin

Medical College’s Annual Report features personalized medicine

The 2010 Medical College of Wisconsin Annual Report and Honor Roll is now available to alumni online or in print upon request.

This year’s annual report presents “The Promise of Personalized Medicine.” Personalized medicine refers to an emerging era in medical practice in which information about a person’s genes, proteins and environment will be used to prevent, diagnose and treat disease. The time is approaching for the next generations when physicians will be able to tailor medical care to an individual’s specific genetic code. The promise is that diseases can be treated more effectively or prevented altogether.

Medical College scientists and physicians are nationally recognized as leaders in the research of genes and proteins and applications to patient care. The report highlights their work.

View the annual report online at www.mcw.edu/publicaffairs or request a printed copy by contacting Cheri by phone at (414) 955-4736, or by e-mail at csaathoff@mcw.edu.
Make new memories...

Alumni Weekend 2011
April 29-30
Milwaukee, Wis.

...with old friends

See page 23 for more information